

CLAIMS

- 1 1. An information backup system, comprising:
 - 2 A. a local computing system including
 - 3 (i) a local disk; and
 - 4 (ii) a local device driver responsive to requests from a local application
 - 5 executing on said local computing system, for selectively processing calls to said
 - 6 local disk or a remote disk for backup of data resident on said local disk; and
 - 7 B. a remote computing system including
 - 8 (i) said remote disk; and
 - 9 (ii) a remote device driver responsive to calls from either said local device
 - 10 driver or calls from a remote application executing on said remote computing
 - 11 system, wherein calls from said local device driver are processed to perform
 - 12 backup operations to said remote disk of data resident on said local computing
 - 13 system.
- 1 2. The information backup system of claim 1, wherein said local device driver
- 2 communicates with a local disk cache disk driver to perform caching in said local computing
- 3 system.
- 1 3. The information backup system of claim 1, wherein said local device driver
- 2 communicates with a network interface card driver on said local computing system to create a
- 3 connection with said remote computing system.

1 4. The information backup system of claim 1, wherein said local device driver does not
2 require any changes to an operating system executing on said local computing system.

1 5. The information backup system of claim 1, wherein said remote device driver
2 communicates with said local device driver through a network interface card driver on said
3 remote computing system.

1 6. The information backup system of claim 1, wherein said remote driver does not require
2 any changes to an operating system executing on said remote computing system.

1 7. The information backup system of claim 1, wherein said remote device driver
2 communicates with a local disk cache disk driver to perform caching in said remote computing
3 system.

1 8. The information backup system of claim 3, wherein said network interface card driver on
2 said local computing system communicates with said remote computing system via the Internet.

1 9. The information backup system of claim 3, wherein said network interface card driver on
2 said local computing system communicates with said remote computing system via a LAN or
3 WAN.

1 10. The information backup system of claim 5, wherein said network interface card driver on
2 said remote computing system communicates with said remote computing system via the
3 Internet.

1 11. The information backup system of claim 5, wherein said network interface card driver on
2 said remote computing system communicates with said remote computing system via a LAN or
3 WAN.

1 12. A method of information backup in a distributed environment, said method comprising:
2 providing a local device driver on a local computing system responsive to
3 requests from a local application executing on a local computing system, for selectively
4 processing calls to a local disk or a remote disk in said distributed environment for
5 backup of data resident on said local disk; and
6 providing a remote device driver on a remote computing system responsive to
7 calls from either said local device driver or calls from a remote application executing on a
8 remote computing system, wherein calls from said local device driver are processed to
9 perform backup operations to said remote disk of data resident on said local computing
10 system.

1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein said local device driver communicates with a local disk
2 cache disk driver to perform caching in said local computing system.

1 14. The method of claim 12, wherein said local device driver communicates with a network
2 interface card driver on said local computing system to create a connection with said remote
3 computing system.

1 15. The method of claim 12, wherein said local device driver does not require any changes to
2 an operating system executing on said local computing system.

1 16. The method of claim 12, wherein said remote device driver communicates with said local
2 device driver through a network interface card driver on said remote computing system.

1 17. The method of claim 12, wherein said remote driver does not require any changes to an
2 operating system executing on said remote computing system.

1 18. The method of claim 12, wherein said remote device driver communicates with a local
2 disk cache disk driver to perform caching in said remote computing system.

1 19. The method of claim 14, wherein said network interface card driver on said local
2 computing system communicates with said remote computing system via the Internet.

1 20. The method of claim 14, wherein said network interface card driver on said local
2 computing system communicates with said remote computing system via a LAN or WAN.

1 21. The method of claim 16, wherein said network interface card driver on said remote
2 computing system communicates with said remote computing system via the Internet.

1 22. The method of claim 16, wherein said network interface card driver on said remote
2 computing system communicates with said remote computing system via a LAN or WAN.